

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Sub 1. (currently amended) An absorbent article (40) comprising a fluid permeable cover (62), a liquid impermeable baffle (64) and an absorbent (66) situated between the cover and the baffle, the absorbent article having a principal longitudinal axis and a principal transverse axis, and being configured to provide a labial pad for disposition within the vestibule of a female wearer, the absorbent having a length of no greater than about 100 mm, a maximum width of no greater than about 70 mm, a widest portion, a width at the widest portion, a narrowest portion, a width at the narrowest portion which is smaller than said width at the widest portion, a maximum thickness of no greater than about 10 mm, first (70) and second (72) end regions and a central region (74) disposed between the first and second end regions, first (80) and second (82) spaced apart longitudinal sides, and first (76) and second (78) spaced apart transverse ends, the longitudinal sides together with the transverse ends generally forming the periphery of the absorbent, wherein the widest portion of the absorbent is not situated in a region other than the central region, and the article is to be folded parallel to said longitudinal axis prior to disposition within the vestibule of the wearer.

2. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the widest portion of the absorbent is situated in the first end region.

3. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 2, wherein the narrowest portion of the absorbent is situated in said central region of the absorbent; a second widest portion of the absorbent has a width and is also situated in the second end region of the absorbent, and said width at the narrowest portion is smaller than said width of said second widest portion of the absorbent.

4. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the widest portion of the absorbent is situated in the second end region.

5. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the cover and the baffle have peripheries which are coterminous with the periphery of the absorbent.

6. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the cover and the baffle have peripheries which extend outward beyond the periphery of the absorbent.

7. (original) The absorbent article of claim 6, wherein the peripheries of the cover and the baffle are at least partially peripherally joined to form an edge (84).

8. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

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9. (currently amended) An absorbent article (40) comprising an absorbent (66) and a liquid impermeable baffle (64), the absorbent article having a principal longitudinal axis and a principal transverse axis, and being configured to provide a labial pad for disposition within the vestibule of a female wearer, the absorbent having a length of no greater than about 100 mm, a maximum width of no greater than about 70 mm, a widest portion, a width at the widest portion, a narrowest portion, a width at the narrowest portion which is smaller than said width at the narrowest portion, a maximum thickness of no greater than about 10 mm, first (70) and second (72) end regions and a central region (74) disposed between the first and second end regions, first (80) and second (82) spaced apart longitudinal sides, and first (76) and second (78) spaced apart transverse ends, the longitudinal sides together with the transverse ends generally forming the periphery of the absorbent, wherein the widest portion of the absorbent is not situated in a region other than the central region, and the article is to be folded parallel to said longitudinal axis prior to disposition within the vestibule of the wearer.

10. (original) The absorbent article of claim 9, wherein the widest portion of the absorbent is situated in the first end region.

11. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 10, wherein the narrowest portion of the absorbent is situated in said central region of the absorbent, a second widest portion of the absorbent is also situated in the second end region of the absorbent, and said width of the narrowest portion is smaller than said width of the second widest portion.

12. (original) The absorbent article of claim 9, wherein the widest portion of the absorbent is situated in the second end region.

13. (original) The absorbent article of claim 9, wherein the baffle has a periphery which is coterminous with the periphery of the absorbent.

14. (original) The absorbent article of claim 9, further comprising a fluid permeable cover (62).

15. (original) The absorbent article of claim 14, wherein the cover encloses the absorbent.

16. (original) The absorbent article of claim 13, further comprising a fluid permeable cover (62), the cover having a periphery which is coterminous with the periphery of the absorbent.

17. (original) The absorbent article of claim 9, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

a 18. (currently amended) An absorbent article (40) having a longitudinal axis, said article comprising an absorbent (66) configured to provide a labial pad for disposition within the vestibule of a female wearer, a widest portion, a maximum width of no greater than about 70 mm, a maximum thickness of no greater than about 10 mm, first (70) and second (72) end regions and a central region (74) disposed between the first and second end regions, first (80) and second (82) spaced apart longitudinal sides, and first (76) and second (78) spaced apart transverse ends, the longitudinal sides together with the transverse ends generally forming the periphery of the absorbent, wherein the widest portion of the absorbent is not situated in a region other than the central region, and the article is to be folded parallel to said longitudinal axis prior to disposition within the vestibule of the wearer.

19. (original) The absorbent article of claim 18, wherein the widest portion of the absorbent is situated in the first end region.

20. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 19, wherein the narrowest portion of the absorbent is situated in said central region of the absorbent, a second widest portion of the absorbent is also situated in the second end region of the absorbent, and said width of the narrowest portion is smaller than said width of the second widest portion.

21. (original) The absorbent article of claim 18, wherein the widest portion of the absorbent is situated in the second end region.

22. (original) The absorbent article of claim 18, wherein the absorbent has an upper surface and a fluid permeable cover (62) residing on the upper surface of the absorbent.

23. (original) The absorbent article of claim 18, further comprising a fluid permeable cover (62) surrounding the absorbent.

24. (original) The absorbent article of claim 23, wherein the cover partially encloses the absorbent.

25. (original) The absorbent article of claim 23, wherein the cover entirely encloses the absorbent.

26. (original) The absorbent article of claim 18, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

27. (currently amended) An absorbent article (40) comprising an absorbent (66) and a fluid permeable cover (62), the absorbent article having a principal longitudinal axis and a principal transverse axis, and being configured to provide a labial pad for disposition within the vestibule of a female wearer, the absorbent having a length of no greater than about 100 mm, a maximum width of no greater than about 70 mm, a widest portion, a width at the widest portion, a narrowest portion, a width at the narrowest portion which is smaller than said width at the widest portion, a maximum thickness of no greater than about 10 mm, first (70) and second (72) end regions and a central region (74) disposed between the first and second end regions, first (80) and second (82) spaced apart longitudinal sides, and first (76) and second (78) spaced apart transverse ends, the longitudinal sides together with the transverse ends generally forming the periphery of the absorbent, wherein the widest portion of the absorbent is not situated in a region other than the central region, and the article is to be folded parallel to said longitudinal axis prior to disposition within the vestibule of the wearer.

28. (original) The absorbent article of claim 27, wherein the widest portion of the absorbent is situated in the first end region.

29. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 28, wherein the narrowest portion of the absorbent is situated in said central region of the absorbent, a second widest portion of the absorbent is also situated in the second end region of the absorbent, and said width of the narrowest portion is smaller than said width of the second widest portion.

30. (original) The absorbent article of claim 27, wherein the widest portion of the absorbent is situated in the second end region.

31. (original) The absorbent article of claim 27, wherein the cover has a periphery which is coterminous with the periphery of the absorbent.

32. (original) The absorbent article of claim 27, further comprising a liquid impermeable baffle (64).

33. (original) The absorbent article of claim 27, wherein the cover encloses the absorbent.

34. (original) The absorbent article of claim 31, further comprising a liquid impermeable baffle (64), the baffle having a periphery which is coterminous with the periphery of the absorbent.

35. (original) The absorbent article of claim 27, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.